

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

TRSE-00 L-03 H-02 EB-07 COME-00 MC-02 NEA-10 ERDA-05

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2127

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

EMBASSY HELSINKI 1958

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBADDY DUBLIN

S E C R E T COPENHAGEN 0264

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM PFOR MASS XG DA

SUBJ: DEPARTMENTAL STUDY OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS SUPPLY
RESTRAINTS

REF: STATE 4313

SUMMARY: DANISH PRODUCTION AND EXPORT OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS
ARE INSIGNIFICANT. THEY HAVE INCREASED OVER THE LAST FEW
YEARS, HOWEVER, AND WILL BE STIMULATED FURTHER AS THE
RESULT OF THE F-16 COPRODUCTION PROGRAM. WE BELIEVE,
NONETHELESS, THAT THE DANES WOULD REACT POSITIVELY TO ANY

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INITIATIVE AIMED AT RESTRAINING CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS.

END SUMMARY.

1) THE DANISH ARMS INDUSTRY SINCE WORLD WAR II HAS BEEN INSIGNIFICANT. THE DANISH DEFENSE ESTABLISHMENT BUYS ALMOST ALL OF ITS ARMS FROM NATO COUNTRIES AND, IN A FEW CASES, SWEDEN. ACCORDING TO DANISH EXPORT STATISTICS, IN 1973, THIS COUNTRY EXPORTED APPROXIMATELY DKR 28 MILLION IN "MILITARY WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION" (OUT OF ABOUT DKR 37.0 BILLION TOTAL EXPORTS). IN 1974, THE LAST COMPLETE YEAR FOR WHICH PUBLISHED FIGURES ARE AVAILABLE, DENMARK EXPORTED ABOUT DKR 51 MILLION UNDER THIS CATEGORY (OUT OF ABOUT DKR 46.9 BILLION TOTAL EXPORTS). THE SAME FIGURES FOR JANUARY-OCTOBER 1975 ARE APPROXIMATELY DKR 84 MILLION (OUT OF ABOUT DKR 41.4 BILLION).

2) AS A PARTICIPANT IN THE EUROPEAN CONSORTIUM PURCHASE OF THE F-16, THE DOMESTIC DANISH "ARMS" INDUSTRY WILL INCREASE. MUCH OF THE DANISH PRODUCTION, HOWEVER, IN CONNECTION WITH THE F-16 WILL BE OF ITEMS WHOSE EXCLUSIVE APPLICABILITY ONLY TO MILITARY UTILIZATION WILL BE QUESTIONABLE: ELECTRONICS, FOR EXAMPLE. ONE OF THE DANISH COMPANIES THAT WILL PROBABLY BE SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE F-16 PROGRAM IS THE "DANISH INDUSTRY SYNDICATE" (DISA), A SUBSIDIARY IN THE MAERSK-MCKINLEY-MOELLER GROUP. BEFORE THE SECOND WORLD WAR, THIS COMPANY MANUFACTURED WEAPONS, INCLUDING MACHINE GUNS AND RIFLES. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, THE DANES DO NOT NOW MANUFACTURE ANY WEAPONS AS SUCH. DISA, HOWEVER, CONTINUES TO BUILD, AND SELL ABROAD, WEAPONS MOUNTS SUCH AS FIELD MOUNT TRIPODS, ANTI-AIRCRAFT TRIPODS AND VEHICLE MOUNTS (SEE DAO REPORT NO. 6 826 0768 75 OF NOVEMBER 20, 1975).

3) IN DECEMBER 1975, NEWS OF THE SALE TO IRAN OF MINE FUSES AND FIRING DEVICES STIMULATED PRESS INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT. ACCORDING TO THE COPENHAGEN DAILY, INFORMATION (LEFT WING-INTELLECTUAL, THE DANISH MANUFACTURER, JOERGEN HOEYER & CO. HAD RECENTLY SOLD MINE FUSES AND FIRING DEVICES TO IRAN. QUANTITIES MENTIONED WERE 105,000 FUSES (M 606) AND 105,000 FIRING DEVICES (M 607). IN RESPONSE TO A REQUEST UNCONNECTED WITH THE PRESENT MESSAGE, DAO
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RECEIVED COPIES OF DEFENSE MINISTRY EXPORT LICENSES ISSUED TO HOEYER DURING 1974 FOR SIMILAR SALES TO IRAN OF MINE FUSES, FIRING DEVICES, ETC., AND ROCKET T.P. SMOKE HEADS.

4) INFORMATION ASSERTED IN AN ARTICLE DECEMBER 9 THAT IN THE "LAST COUPLE OF YEARS" DENMARK HAS TRIPLED ITS MILITARY EXPORTS TO IRAN AS PART OF "EXPANDED" DANISH-IRANIAN COOPERATION. THE NEWSPAPER NOTED IRAN'S CONFLICT WITH THE

"OMAN SULTANATE" TO CRITICIZE THE HYPOCRISY OF DECLARED DANISH EXPORT POLICY OF REFUSING TO SELL WEAPONS TO COUNTRIES INVOLVED IN "WARLIKE CONFLICTS OR TO AREAS THAT ARE SO TROUBLED THAT WARLIKE EVENTS MAY OCCUR".

5) THE ABOVE BACKGROUND INDICATES THAT THE DANISH SALES OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS TO OTHER COUNTRIES ARE SMALL BUT ARE INCREASING. THERE WILL ALSO BE AREAS OF DANISH INDUSTRY STIMULATED BY THE F-16 PROGRAM WHICH MAY ENTER INTO RELATED PRODUCTION.

6) HAVING SAID THIS, HOWEVER, PACIFIST TENDENCIES ARE NOT UNIMPORTANT IN DENMARK AND THE DANES WOULD SUPPORT STEPS TO REDUCE ARMS PROLIFERATION IN GENERAL. WE, CONSEQUENTLY, BELIEVE THAT THE DANISH GOVERNMENT WOULD REACT POSITIVELY TO ANY INITIATIVE AIMED AT RESTRAINING CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS. IF THE US WERE TO DECIDE TO PROCEED WITH AN ATTEMPT TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT TO RESTRAIN CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFER, WE SHOULD DIRECTLY APPROACH THE DANISH GOVERNMENT ON THIS QUESTION IN ORDER TO EXPLORE THEIR THOUGHTS RE ACCEPTABLE FORMS OF TRANSFER RESTRAINTS.

7) AT THAT TIME, WE COULD EXPLORE WITH THE DANES THEIR REACTION TO AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SUPPLIERS AND RECIPIENTS. OUR JUDGMENT IS THAT THEY WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO SUCH A CONFERENCE BUT WOULD BE PESSIMISTIC OVER ANY MEANINGFUL RESULTS FROM IT OR FROM THEIR ATTEMPTS TO SECURE AGREEMENT ON LIMITATIONS OF CONVENTIONAL ARMS TRANSFERS.

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